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| 09/961,214      | 09/21/2001  | Priscilla Escobar-Bowser | TI-30806            | 4092             |

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EXAMINER

NGUYEN, HIEP

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2816

DATE MAILED: 08/27/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

09/961,214

Applicant(s)

ESCOBAR-BOWSER ET AL.

Examiner

Hiep Nguyen

Art Unit

2816

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 June 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,5-8 and 13-15 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,5-8 and 13-15 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120**

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102*

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1, 6, 8 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Menon et al. (US Pat. 5,654,665).

Regarding claim 1, figure 4 of Menon shows a circuit comprising: a diode (Q1), a first transistor (Q2) coupled in series with the diode, a first resistor (R1), a second transistor (Q3) having a control node coupled to a node between the first transistor and the first resistor, a second resistor (Rref) coupled in series with the second resistor, a bias generator circuit (130, 150) coupled to the second transistor and to the second resistor. The first branch of the bias circuit is coupled to the second transistor and to the second resistor and the second branch is coupled to the first branch by current mirrors.

Regarding claim 6, the first and second transistors are bipolar transistors.

Regarding claims 8 and 14, figure 4 of Menon shows a circuit comprising: a constant voltage drop device (Q1), a first transistor (Q2) coupled in series with the constant voltage drop device (Q1), a first resistor (R1), a second transistor (Q3), a second resistor (Rref) and a bias circuit including circuits (130) and (150). The first branch of the bias circuit is coupled to the second transistor and to the second resistor and the second branch is coupled to the first branch by current mirrors. The first and second transistors are bipolar transistors.

Claims 1, 5, 6, 8 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Tailliet (US Pat. 5,903,141).

Regarding claim 1, figure 2 of Tailliet shows a circuit comprising: a diode (T6), a first transistor (T5) coupled in series with the diode, a first resistor (R3), a second transistor (T4) having a control node coupled to a node between the first transistor and the first resistor, a

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second resistor (R1) coupled in series with the second resistor, a bias generator circuit (T1, Rr, T2, Rr', T7) coupled to the second transistor and to the second resistor. The first branch of the bias circuit (T1, Rr, T2) is coupled to the second transistor (T4) and to the second resistor (R1) and the second branch (T7, Rr') is coupled to the first branch by current mirrors.

Regarding claim 5, the third resistor is (Rr) coupled between the second resistor and a voltage node (ground).

Regarding to claim 6, the first and second transistors are bipolar transistors.

Regarding claims 8 and 13, figure 2 of Tailliet shows a circuit comprising: a constant voltage drop device (T6), a first transistor (T5) coupled in series with the constant voltage drop device (T6), a first resistor (R3), a second transistor (T4), a second resistor (R1) and a bias circuit including circuit (T1, Rr, T2, Rr', T7). The first branch of the bias circuit (T1, Rr, T2) is coupled to the second transistor (T4) and to the second resistor (R1) and the second branch (Rr', T7) is coupled to the first branch by current mirrors. The third resistor is (Rr).

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 7 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Menon et al. (US Pat. 5,654,665).

Regarding claims 7 and 15, figure 4 of Menon includes all the limitations of the present application except for the limitation that the first and second transistors are PNP bipolar transistors. However, it is old and well known in the art that NPN and PNP bipolar transistor are exchangeable depending upon the polarities of the power supply voltage used. Therefore, it would have been obvious to those skilled in the art to replace the NPN transistors of Menon with the PNP transistor to conform to the polarities of power supply used.

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### *Conclusion*

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Examiner Hiep Nguyen whose telephone number is (703) 305-0127. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday from 7:30 A.M.to 4:00 P.M..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tim Callahan, can be reached on (703) 308-4876. The fax phone number for this Group is (703) 308-6251.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.

Hiep Nguyen

08-16-03



TUANT.LAM  
PRIMARY EXAMINER